

June 11, 2016

Tara Pettit
Project Manager (acting)
New Philadelphia Special Resource Study
tara_pettit@nps.gov

Dear Ms. Pettit:

The Pike County Farm Bureau lends its support of the New Philadelphia site for inclusion as a National Park by the National Park Service.

As a place where formerly enslaved individuals, free born African-Americans, and white Americans lived together in a region and an era of intense racial strife, a National Park unit at New Philadelphia will inspire current and future generations and commemorate themes important to all Americans: the struggle for freedom and opportunity.

By including New Philadelphia among the national treasures designated as National Parks, we have the opportunity to contribute to a more complete and accurate account of the people, events, and cultural interactions that shaped our nation's character.

Direct management by the National Park Service (NPS) would permanently protect New Philadelphia from development, ensuring preservation of the site's archaeological integrity for future study of a 19th century racially diverse community.

The worldwide prestige associated with the National Park Service far exceeds the resources available through local management to attract visitors. New Philadelphia's inclusion in National Park Service generated literature and advertising through the wide variety of electronic and print media, including the popular NPS Passport to Your National Parks program, would introduce and familiarize the nation and the world to New Philadelphia.

New Philadelphia is an inspiration for what can be accomplished through determination and resilience. Settlers cleared and cultivated forest and sparse grassland to create productive farmland – an inspiration of what can be accomplished by determination and resilience.

Sincerely,

Blake E. Roderick, Executive Director
Pike and Scott County Farm Bureaus